



The team looking out for our children Page 8



sister proves she has the X Factor Page 16

Travellers' genocide protest

TRAVELLERS have asked to stage an anti-eviction exhibition in the town hall, likening Basildon Council's treatment of them to the Holocaust.

Council leader Tony Ball said comparisons made by campaigner Grattan Puxon between Auschwitz and the eviction plan were "outrageous".

Mr Puxon approached the council asking if an exhibition using displays which combine images of Nazi genocide, some from Auschwitz, against gypsies and pictures from previous council evictions at Hovefields, can go on display in the Basildon Centre on December 10.

Mr Ball said: "My understanding is the exhibition will draw comparisons between the Nazi treatment of gypsies during the Holocaust and Basildon Council's treatment of travellers.

"This is outrageous with no basis in fact."

Woman found dead in flat

A WOMAN was found dead in her home by police.

Officers were called to the flat in Shepeshall, Laindon, after the alarm was raised by neighbours.

They found the 43-year-old woman's body after they arrived at 4.40am on Monday.

Her death is not being treated as suspicious and she is thought to have died of natural causes.

A file is being prepared for the coroner.

Machine jailed for

- ❑ Defendant thought he was carrying cannabis
- ❑ Police found weapon and ammunition in car

By GINA MARDEN
Crime reporter

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A MAN caught with a sub-machinegun has been jailed for five years.

James Sweeney, who was acting as a courier for a man he refused to name, was also found with ammunition and two magazines.

Sweeney, 28, of Bridge Road, Wickford, was taking the weapon and ammunition from Clacton to Basildon when he was stopped by police at the Howe Green junction on the A12, near Chelmsford.

But he claimed he thought he was carrying cannabis, not the gun, and had been "stitched up".

Jailing Sweeney Judge Roger Hayward Smith said: "You were wilfully blind to what they were, and didn't want to know.

"You were acting as a courier of the bag from Clacton to Basildon given to you by a man you know, but will not name because you're afraid.

"If you knew what you were carrying, the term of imprisonment would be in excess of five years."

Sweeney was stopped driving a black Peugeot 307 on June 15 this year by police.

The officers asked him if he was carrying anything and Sweeney said he was, but he didn't know what.

They searched the car and found a black holdall containing a laptop



■ Deadly - was found

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Where to find it

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